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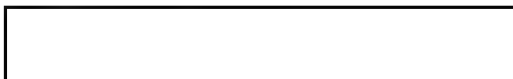
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Korea: North Korean incursions into the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and infiltration into South Korea are continuing at a high level.

The most serious of the four incidents in the DMZ reported in the past week was the ambush of a US Army truck on 10 August in which three American soldiers were killed and 15 Americans and two South Koreans wounded. There have been more than 280 incidents already this year, compared with annual totals of 44, 55, and 32 for the preceding three years.

Agent activity has also increased and diversified. At least some of the 17 teams that are believed to have infiltrated since mid-May include military officers. Interrogation of captured team members indicates their mission is to determine the feasibility of guerrilla activity and of recruiting sympathizers.

North Korea began expanding its agent program in 1965 and can now train about 500 a year, twice the previous estimated capacity. In 73 clashes with agent teams operating mostly in remote eastern and southern areas, the South Koreans have killed 39 and captured 54.

Statements by North Korean leaders and Pyongyang's propaganda do not suggest any intent to open a "second front" to divert attention from the Vietnam war. Pyongyang may hope, however, that the activity in the DMZ will discourage Seoul from sending additional troops to Vietnam.

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NOTES

Panama: Treaty negotiator Roberto Aleman reportedly is convinced that the proposed canal treaties will have to be renegotiated. His pessimistic view may be influenced by the opposition of former president Chiari, who contends that the sea-level canal and defense treaties should be discarded completely. In addition, objections by some members the Foreign Relations Council appear to call for renegotiation.

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Peru: President Belaunde may let the three-week-old legislative impasse continue in order to bring about a permanent recess of Congress. He believes that a number of high-ranking military leaders oppose having the present Congress reconvene, but he apparently intends to wait until military attitudes are clear before making a final decision. The President and some of his advisers claim to be worried that reconvening the present Congress might lead to an eventual military take-over.

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